

Glen Rock Middle School/High School HSA - Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2016 9:00 AM Media Center

Attendees (20): Sandi Stern, Donna Beldner, Grace Cosgriff, Anne Marie Podd, Mona Milbrodt, Kara Stansel, Gretchen Horwitz, Kathy Duggan, Angela Catanzaro, Joyce Silva, Michele Sapoff, Louise D'Amato, Joan Fisher, Kristen Newbart, Ann Boyle, Donna Heller, Linda Schultz, Jen Scherer, Jennifer Park, Liz Cox

Administrators (2): John Arlotta (HS Principal), Edward Thompson (MS Principal)

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 AM by HSA President, Sandi Stern.

Approval of the January 22, 2016 Meeting Minutes: Submitted by Anne Marie Podd.
Motion to approve by Joyce Silva and seconded by Grace Cosgriff.

Principals' Reports:

Middle School- Mr. Thompson

- Today is "Maker Day" in the media center for sixth grade students. The program was developed jointly by Lauren Mitchell, Middle School Media Specialist, and Mary Morrow, Gifted and Talented Teacher. Students rotate through stations to design and create. Stations include using a 3D printer, coding, programming robots, using art and engineering together, etc. STEM approach: build what you design. HSA members are welcome to peek in to the media center before leaving.
- A federal prosecutor will be coming in to present to students on drugs and also on Internet safety.
- The student survey was conducted during late Feb./early March. Approximately 150 middle school and 150 high school students responded to the survey.
- The 6th & 7th grades are having a dance.
- New this year – we are trying an 8th grade semi-formal dance June 13th at Powerhouse Studio in Paramus. We hope to get 100 attendees.
- April 6th is Fifth Grade Parent Night
- Our middle school musical, *The Sound of Music*, was the best ever!
- Next Wednesday is a homework free night.
- PARC testing begins on April 4th. We want to increase participation this year.
- When a school has less than 95% participation, it is put on an action plan by the state.
- March Madness Spirit Week begins next week.
- April 8th is the Philadelphia trip.

High School – Mr. Arlotta

- Tonight is the spring theatre production, *Shakespeare/Star Wars*. It's at 7:30 PM and there are 2 more shows tomorrow. Come see it.
- March 22nd is the Christopher Barron fundraiser featuring performances by Glen Rock High School Students.
- March 30th is the Interact fashion show.
- Our World Language program currently offers 4 languages. We are adding a second layer of Mandarin.
- We want to link our language program to our foreign exchange program. Spanish students went to Spain. French students went to Quebec. Mandarin students went to Chinatown. Down the road, we'd like to go to China.

- The high school is proud to report that student initiated grant proposals resulted in three grants including a healthy eating program and a program for children with developmental differences.
- Mr. Arlotta expressed his disappointment in the recent Board of Education decision to hold off on the one-to-one laptop initiative for all GRHS students. There are no infrastructure problems. It would be most efficient to have all students have a laptop all the time. He understands that new board members need to question everything and that the budget is a concern, but we are behind other schools in technology. If we don't move forward, we'll continue to move backward.
- Currently we have a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) policy in place. But, when you have all these different devices, you can't manage the software for all of them.
- Currently we have only 150 laptops for 750 students.
- It's more efficient, to give each student a laptop and load the software.
- Chrome books are less expensive, but they are less durable and can't run certain software. They are dependent on the Google platform. We still use Microsoft platforms as well as Google.

Treasurer's Report – (Gretchen Horwitz)

- Dues are on target.
- We are funding an 8th grade weather assembly.
- We are funding an author visit on 3/23 (Author: Mark Shulman)
- The budget for next year will be presented at the next HSA meeting.

Board of Ed (Donna Beldner)

- One-to-one laptops are going to make us go over budget and raise the tax cap. It's about money.
- Educators want the one-to-one laptops, but if we do this our taxes are going to go up.
- Come to the next BOE meeting on 3/28 and make your voice heard.
- We have some good new board members and a new financial planning committee. If we do this, it has to be done right and a thorough plan needs to be in place. (Not like the kindergarten issue last year.)
- Good news – no activity fee will be charged for middle school clubs.

HSA Survey Results (Sandi Stern)

We had 71 respondents. Only 9 were non-HSA members.

Areas we could expand:

- 1) Career focused opportunities/exposure to options/needed skills/real world experience
- 2) Options that enhance education beyond school/small group workshops/programs that encourage girls to code, etc./field trips
- 3) More clubs for the MS/HS or more support for underfunded clubs
- 4) Technology

Parent suggestion at meeting: For HS students, maybe we could bring in parents that have cool, interesting or different types of jobs and set up a "Speed Dating " type event, only talk about careers. Let the students rotate through the possibilities.

HSA Board Opportunities/Volunteer Opportunities

Angela Vila, who heads Nominating, will be recruiting. Or, contact Angela directly. Anybody can volunteer for a committee or the HSA Board. Volunteer!

Next meeting: Friday, June 10th 9:00 AM in the Media Center.

Adjournment The motion to adjourn was made at 10:03 AM by Donna Beldner and seconded by Linda Schultz.

Minutes respectively submitted by Anne Marie Podd.